Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(Currently amended). A vector having a portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region derived from an mRNA for a cold shock protein gene, wherein a mutation is introduced into the 5'-untranslated region such that a distance between stem structures formed in said region is altered and wherein said introduced mutation is an insertion or deletion of a nucleotide introduced into a region corresponding to nucleotide 593 to nucleotide 598 in SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

4(Currently amended). The vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region further has an operator.

5(Original). The vector according to claim 4, wherein the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region is a portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region that has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 3 or 4.

6(Currently amended). The vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, which has a promoter located upstream of the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region.

7(Currently amended). The vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, which has a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to an anti-downstream box sequence in a ~~ribosomal~~ ribosomal RNA of a host to be used, wherein said nucleotide sequence is located downstream of the portion encoding a 5'-untranslated region.

8(Currently amended). The vector according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, which is a plasmid vector.

9(Currently amended). A method for expressing a protein of interest, the method comprising:

(1) transforming a host with the vector defined by any one of claims 1 ~~to~~ and 4-8 into which a gene encoding a protein of interest has been incorporated to obtain a transformant;

(2) culturing the transformant; and

(3) shifting the culture temperature down to ~~one~~ a temperature lower than a conventional culture temperature to express the protein of interest.

10(Original). The method according to claim 9, wherein a promoter is induced during or after step (3).